

A **weight** in statistical terms is defined as a coefficient assigned to a number in a computation, for example when determining an average, to make the number's effect on the computation reflect its importance.

An illustration of 'weight' and 'weighting' is the calculation of the [harmonised index of consumer prices \(HICP\)](#) performed by [Eurostat](#). The HICP is composed of prices for a 'basket' of items regularly purchased by consumers. However, some items such as food and newspapers are purchased more frequently than others, such as car insurance or a television set. To account for this, the various items in the basket are assigned a weight to reflect the total consumer expenditure on these items even though they may be low-cost individual purchases.

Related concepts

- [Weighted average](#)

Source

- [OECD glossary of statistical terms](#)